

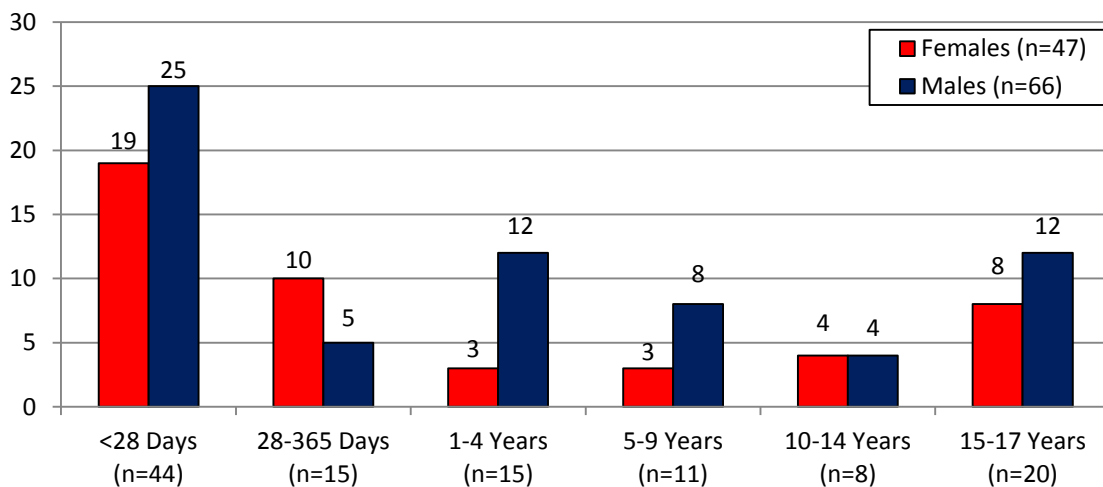


2011 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR PIMA AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Pima or Santa Cruz Counties. During 2011, there were 113 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Pima (n=109) and Santa Cruz (n=4). Males accounted for 58 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=66) and females accounted for 42 percent (n=47). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group,
Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2011 (n=113)**



Deaths were over-represented among Hispanic children in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties in 2011. Hispanic children comprised 23 percent of the population but 57 percent of the child deaths in these counties. White, non-Hispanic children comprised 36 percent of the population and 33 percent of the child fatalities. African American, Asian and American Indian were either under represented or had an equal percentage of deaths to the child population.

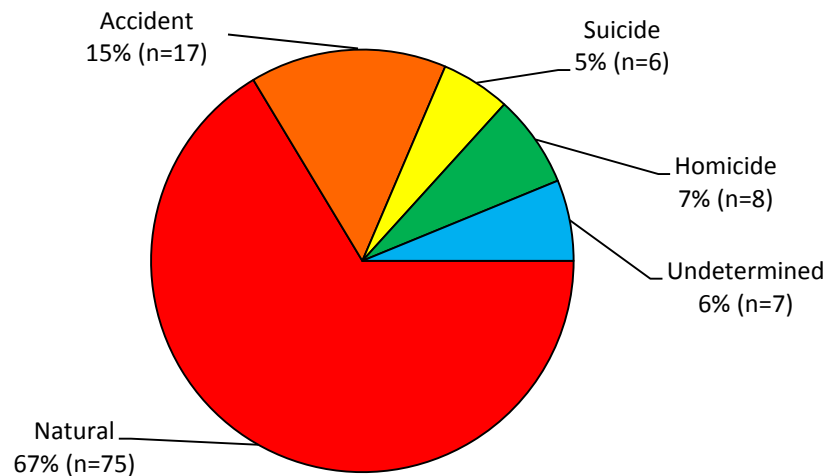
CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or medical condition that resulted in death (e.g. firearm-related injury, pneumonia, cancer). Manner of death is not the same as cause of death, but specifically refers to the intentionality of the cause. For example, if the cause of death was a firearm-related injury, then the manner of death may have been intentional or unintentional. If it was intentional, then the manner of death was suicide or homicide. If it was unintentional, then the manner of death was an accident. In some cases, there was insufficient information to determine the manner of death, even though the cause was known. It may not have been clear that a firearm death was due to an accident, suicide, or homicide, and in these cases, the manner of death was listed as undetermined. Manners of death include:

- natural (e.g., cancer)
- accident (e.g., unintentional car crash)
- homicide (e.g., assault)
- suicide (e.g., self-inflicted intentional firearm injury)
- undetermined

Sixty-seven percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=75), 15 percent were due to accidents (n=17), seven percent were due to homicide (n=8), five percent were due to suicide (n=6) and six percent were of an undetermined manner (n=7) Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2011 (n=113)



In Pima and Santa Cruz Counties during 2011, 58 children died from medical causes, 16 died from prematurity, seven children died in MVC/Transport-related incidents, five children died by firearm, four died from hanging, two children died by suffocation and two more died by poisoning. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2011 (n=113)						
Cause	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Total
Medical*	58	0	0	0	0	58
Prematurity	16	0	0	0	0	16
MVC/Transport	0	7	1	0	0	8
Firearm	0	0	1	5	0	6
Suffocation	0	1	0	1	2	4
Drowning	0	5	0	0	0	5
SIDS	0	0	0	0	1	1
Blunt/Sharp Force Trauma	0	0	0	2	0	2
Hanging	0	1	4	0	0	5
Undetermined	1	0	0	0	4	5
Poisoning	0	2	0	0	0	2
Fire/Burn	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	75	17	6	8	7	113
*Excluding Prematurity and SIDS						

PREVENTABILITY

Child fatality review teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caregiver or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. The local child fatality review team determined that 30 percent of the deaths among Pima County and Santa Cruz County children could have been prevented (n=34).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, drugs and/or alcohol were a contributing factor for 24 deaths (21 percent), and lack of supervision was a contributing factor for 13 deaths (12 percent). Co-sleeping was a factor in 3 child deaths (3 percent) and lack of or improper restraint use was a factor in 3 child deaths (3 percent) Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Pima and Santa Cruz Counties.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2011		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Substance use	24	21%
Lack of Supervision	13	12%
Co-sleeping	3	3%
Restraint use	3	3%
Distracted driving	2	2%
Excessive speed	2	2%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN PIMA AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2011, 113 children who were residents of Pima or Santa Cruz Counties died, and 695 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had a crude rate of 46.8 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a lower rate than the remainder of the state (49.7 deaths per 100,000 residents).

Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had a lower percentage of preventable deaths compared to the remaining counties. Thirty percent of the deaths of Pima County and Santa Cruz County children could have been prevented (n=34), compared to over one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (35 percent, n=246).

Medical conditions, such as cancer or asthma, were the leading cause of child deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (51 percent), which was a higher percentage when compared to the rest of the Arizona counties (40 percent). Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had a lower percentage of prematurity deaths (14 percent) than the remaining counties (25 percent). The percentage of MVC/Transport deaths was slightly lower (7 percent) than the remaining counties (8 percent). The percentage of firearm deaths were higher in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (5 percent) compared to the remaining counties (two percent). Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2011			
Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=113)		Arizona, Excluding Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=695)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	51%	Medical	40%
Prematurity	14%	Prematurity	25%
MVC/Transport	7%	MVC/Transport	8%
Firearm	5%	Firearm	2%

In Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, the second largest percentage of deaths were due to accidents (15 percent). In the remaining counties, accidents accounted for 20 percent of child deaths. There was a slightly larger percentage of natural deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (67 percent), compared to the rest of the state (65 percent). Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had the same percentage of suicides than the rest of the state (five percent each). Homicides accounted for seven percent of child deaths for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties but only 4 percent for the rest of the state. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2011			
Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=113)		Arizona, Excluding Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=695)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	67%	Natural	65%
Accident	15%	Accident	20%
Suicide	5%	Suicide	5%
Homicide	7%	Homicide	4%
Undetermined	6%	Undetermined	6%